

REMARKS

Claim 3, line 1, please delete "any one of the preceding claims", and substitute therefore --claim 1--;

3. A machine according to claim 1, provided with a pair of lips resiliently pressing substantially against each other at a location on the discharge side of a plane through the rotary shafts of the rollers, placed such that stems that have been supplied by the rollers, after having pressed between the lips by the rollers, are pushed away from the rollers by the lips.

Claim 4, line 1, please delete "any one of the preceding claims", and substitute therefore --claim 1--;

4. A machine according to claim 1, wherein the gripper is provided with an upholder with a point of connection that is connected to a part of the band between the fingers, the upholder being so arranged as to allow a movement of the point of connection in a direction from an opening between the fingers, the movement being limited to movement in a plane through both fingers.

Claim 5, line 1, please delete "any one of the preceding claims", and substitute therefore --claim 1--;

5. A machine according to claim 1, wherein the gripper includes a further pair of fingers between which a further flexible band is tensioned, parallel to the fingers mentioned earlier, with a space between the pair of fingers and the further pair of fingers for receiving the rollers.

Claim 6, line 1, please delete "any one of the preceding claims", and substitute therefore --claim 1--;

6. A machine according to claim 1, with a movement mechanism for moving the gripper and the rollers relative to each other between a receiving position and a tying position, in which receiving position the part of the band that is tensioned between the fingers is arranged on a discharge side of the plane through the rotary shafts of the rollers, so that stems carried along by the rollers are received with the band between the fingers, and in which tying position the fingers enclose the received stems with the band, while the stems, compared with the receiving position, are arranged further away from the rollers.

Claim 7, line 1, please delete "any one of the preceding claims", and substitute therefore --claim 1--;

7. A machine according to claim 1, wherein the gripper is provided with a gripping mechanism for bringing the ends of the fingers together.

Claim 11, line 1, please delete "or 10";

11. A gripper according to claim 9, provided with a pair of meshing gearwheels which are coupled to the fingers to transmit an opening push force from one finger to the other, and at least one spring element which is coupled to at least one of the fingers to move ends of the fingers towards each other when from outside the gripper no opening push force is exerted.

Claim 12, line 1, please delete ",10 or 11";

12. A gripper according to claim 9, provided with an upholder having a point

Appl. No. NL 10/21521
Amdt. dated September 24, 2003

of connection which is connected to a part of the band between the fingers, the upholder being so arranged as to allow a movement of the point of connection in a direction from an opening between the fingers, the movement being limited to movement in a plane through both fingers.

It is respectfully requested that the above-noted amendments to the claims be made prior to the calculation of the filing fee

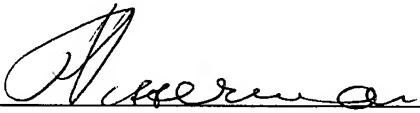
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated:

9/24/03

By


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